

Clinical Congress News

The American College of Surgeons • 84th Clinical Congress • October 25-30, 1998 • Orlando

George F. Sheldon becomes ACS President tonight

eorge F. Sheldon, MD, FACS, a general surgeon from Chapel Hill, NC, will be installed as the 79th President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) tonight during Convocation ceremonies that conclude the Clinical Congress. Dr. Sheldon is currently the Zack D. Owens Distinguished Professor of Surgery and professor and chair of the department of surgery at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

A native of Salina, KS, Dr. Sheldon received a BA degree from the University of Kansas in 1957 and a medical degree from Kansas University Medical School in 1961.

After internship at Kansas University Medical Center, Dr. Sheldon entered service through the United States Public Health Service, serving in the Uniformed Services branches of the Marine Hospital System where he served as senior assistant surgeon (lieutenant), 1962-1963, and surgeon (lieutenant commander), 1963-1964. Following service, he attended the Mayo Clinic from 1964 to 1965 as a fellow in internal medicine. He completed a residency in surgery at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center (1965-1969) under a former President of the American College of Surgeons, J.

Engelbert Dunphy, MD, FACS.

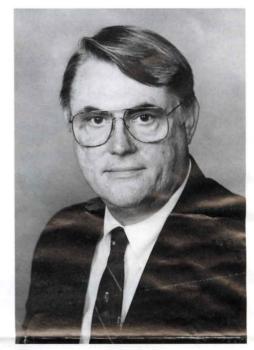
Following his residency, he became a research fellow in surgical biology at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital at Harvard University (1969-1979) serving in the laboratory Francis D. Moore, MD, FACS. Following that fellowship, he became assistant professor in the department of surgery at the University of California School of Medicine in 1975, becoming professor in 1980. At San Francisco General Hospital, he was chief of trauma and hyperalimentation services. Dr. Sheldon assumed his current position as professor and chair of the department of surgery at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in 1984, and was named the Zack D. Owens Distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University

Dr. Sheldon became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1973 and has been an active participant in College activities since that time. He was elected to the Board of Governors in 1976 and served on the Executive Committee and as Secretary of the Board of Governors (1979–1982). He served as Chair of the Governors' Committee to Study the Fiscal Affairs of the College. Between 1984 and 1993 he served on the American College of Surgeons' Board of Regents. As a member of the Board of Regents, he chaired the

Communications Committee and became Editorial Advisor for the *Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons*. He has served on many committees of the College, including the Scholarships Committee (1975–1989), Finance Committee (1979–1982), and the Committee on Trauma (1982–1987).

He chaired the Task Force on Fragmentation and Turf Problems Retreat in 1991 and has been a participant and course organizer for more than 15 courses at the annual Clinical Congress. He gave the Scudder Oration for the Committee on Trauma in 1991 and presented the Opening Ceremonies Lecture of the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in 1978. He has been active in the College's local chapters, first in Northern California and secondly in the North Carolina Chapter of the College. He was also Vice-Chair of the Surgical Research and **Education Committee of the American** College of Surgeons and was Vice-Chair under William Longmire, MD, FACS, former President of the American College of Surgeons of the Conjoint Council on Surgical Research, which is now being absorbed into the American College of Surgeons as the Surgical Research and Education Committee.

Dr. Sheldon has had many leadership responsibilities in a variety of medical



Dr. Sheldon

organizations. He was secretary and then president (1984) of the American Association of the Surgery of Trauma and this past year gave the Fitts Oration on trauma for that organization. He was secretary and then president (1994) of the American Surgical Association.

(continued on page 2)

At Ethics Lecture

Neuhaus nixes nihilism

"Moral analysis and ethical thought cannot go beyond or behind the 'first principles' any more than human consciousness can go beyond or behind human consciousness," according to Father Richard John Neuhaus at yesterday's Ethics and Philosophy Lecture, "Medical Ethics and the Idea of Progress."

Rev. Neuhaus is president of the Institute on Religion and Public Life, New York, NY, and editor-in-chief of its monthly journal, *First Things*. He is acclaimed as one of the foremost authorities on the role of religion in the contemporary world, and has published voluminously on the topic.

At yesterday's lecture, Rev. Neuhaus challenged the concept that since we live in a circumstance with new challenges (progress), we require new ethics (principles) with which to make decisions.

Progress, Rev. Neuhaus said, can be considered a good thing, it is "change with a purpose." He continued to say that progress is what allows us to speak of history as a singular thing. However, Rev. Neuhaus reminded the audience that every age considers itself to be in a time of flux—it is not a phenomenon new to the late 20th century.

Yet, in our late 20th century, there are many neophiliacs, or "lovers of the

new," who operate on an uncounscious teleological assumption regarding change, Rev. Neuhaus believes. And, he said, there have been many great progressions in medicine, economics, and technology in this century. These accomplishments, he continued, certainly are valid points for those who "adhere to the gospel of progress."

Rev. Neuhaus said that the concept of the link between knowledge and progress began with the ancient Greeks, and since that time has essentially gone unquestioned by scientists, philosophers, and theologians. However, he noted that our present century is the "bloodiest and most horrible century in history," and this situation has caught the attention of today's scholars.

Rev. Neuhaus said that during the 1970s, many philosophers as well as scientists published articles expressing concern that our society had reached the limits of scientific inquiry. "By following its own rigorous methodology, science discovered there are things we cannot know," Rev. Neuhaus said.

Accompanying this doubt among scholars and scientists, he continued, is a "melancholy that goes very deep." Rev. Neuhaus suggested then that the

(continued on page 2)

DR. SHELDON, from page 1

He was certified by the American Board of Surgery in 1970 and received added certification in Surgical Critical Care in 1986. He became a director of the American Board of Surgery in 1983 and was elected chairman of the American Board of Surgery, serving between 1989 to 1990. Dr. Sheldon served on the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education from 1978 to 1984 and chaired their Committee on Vascular Surgery. He continues to serve on the standing panel for Accreditation Appeals at the present time. Dr. Sheldon also was a member of the surgery subtest committee of the National Board of Medical Examiners, serving between 1981 and 1984.

Dr. Sheldon has had a strong participation in the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and served on their landmark committee on the Graduate and Professional Education in 1983 and 1984. He also served on the Committee on Teaching in the Ambulatory Setting. He currently is serving as chair of the Council of Academic Societ-

ies Administrative Board. He also serves on the AAMC's Committee on Health Workforce, Committee on Gender Equity and the Committee on PATH Audits. He was recently appointed to a task force on clinical research, a combined committee of the AAMC and the AMA, and to the Board of Directors of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honors Medical Society.

Dr. Sheldon has been active in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences and was elected to membership in 1996 to that organization. He has served on the Committee on Employer Based Health Insurance, the Task Force to Evaluate Healthcare Technology Assessment, and the Committee on U.S. Physician Supply. He is currently serving on an Institute of Medicine committee to examine resuscitation fluid design and resuscitation protocols for combat casualties.

Dr. Sheldon's research activities have been in three areas. He led the research group that established that the route of nutrition, be it intravenous or oral, was essential in maintaining the integrity of the host defense mechanisms. He has published material about the clinical management of patients with injury. Dr. Sheldon has published more than 200 scientific articles and coauthored eight books. Dr. Sheldon serves on the editorial boards of Annals of Surgery, the Journal of Trauma and Critical Care, the American Journal of Surgery, and the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

He has participated actively in health services research, being an acknowledged expert on the surgical workforce, which has resulted in invitations to testify before Congress and other federal agencies. He served as chairman of the Merit Review Board for the Surgery Veterans Administration between 1981 and 1983. He has served on the American Institute of Biologic Science Research Review since 1984.

Dr. Sheldon is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, an Honorary Fellow of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, and an Honorary Fellow of the European Surgical Association. He is a member of the James IV Association of Surgeons and is listed in *Who's Who in America*.

Books authored or coauthored by Dr. Sheldon include *Clinical Surgery*, coedited with John H. Davis—the 1991 recipient of the College's Distinguished Service Award.

Other officials to be installed tonight are Josef E. Fischer, MD, FACS, Cincinnati, OH, as First Vice-President and Julian T. Hoff, MD, FACS, Ann Arbor, MI, as Second Vice-President.

Dr. Fischer is Christian R. Holmes Professor and chairman, department of surgery, University of Cincinnati (OH) Medical Center. He is the recipient of last year's Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Hoff is professor of surgery and head, section of neurosurgery, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor. He has been a member of the College since 1975, and has served as Chair, Neurosurgery, Committee for the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems (1979-1985), and member of the Program Committee (1989-1994).

REV. NEUHAUS, from page 1

links of the "modernity project" begun by the ancient Greeks are being strained today.

Rev. Neuhaus then examined the condition of our moral framework, or first principles, and said that "we should be open to the possibility that we are witnessing a moral regression." He continued by stating that "cosmologists, molecular biologists, and physicists reach the end of knowledge, at which they fall silent and acknowledge our human creatureliness." Ethicists, he

said, reach the same point and do not fall silent but instead look for options.

Rev. Neuhaus said he believes that today we have a choice between Aristotle's concept of choice ("enlight-enment project") or Nietzsche's moral nihilism. And, he said, a worrisome trend is that the "nihilistic avant-garde is degeneration to barbarianism. These barbarians are those who know nothing and insist nothing can be known."

In today's society, Rev. Neuhaus said, the new barbarians are not those lacking in sophistication; rather, they are *hypersophisticated*, and therefore have removed themselves from traditional ethics. For these barbarians, he said, the "past is merely prelude," and to any immutable moral principle, they respond with, "Says who?"

These "hermeneutics of suspicion make the first priniciples vulnerable," Rev. Neuhaus said, and they empower the hypersohpisticated with the view that first principles of moral thought can be debunked or "seen through."

Finally, Rev. Neuhaus reminded the audience that, "There is no progress in the sense of moving beyond the moral truths that constitute our civilizational circle." For, he said, without a firm set of moral principles on which to frame progress, no progress can be made. In concluding, he quoted the 20th century essayist C. S. Lewis, "But you cannot go on explaining away forever...It is no use trying to see through first principles....a wholy transparent world is an invisible world."

The following companies have supported the Clinical Congress with advertisements in the Exhibit Guide section of this issue:

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2

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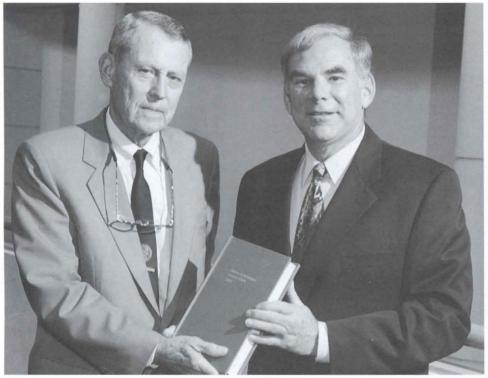
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Items of interest or information must be reported to the office of the Clinical Congress News by 11:30 am on the day preceding the desired day of publication.

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Thomas E. Starzl, MD, FACS (left), receives a presentation copy of the 1998 *Owen H. Wangensteen Surgical Forum* from David Tapper, MD, FACS, Chair of the Committee for the Forum on Fundamental Surgical Problems. The 49th volume of the *Surgical Forum* is dedicated to Dr. Starzl in recognition of his continuing outstanding contributions to and leadership in the field of transplantation surgery.

Allied Meetings

Thursday

Morning

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons- Cooperative Clinical Trials 7:00 am - 8:00 am. Breakfast

OMNI Rosen Hotel, Salon 15, Floor Mezzanine

Afternoon

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons-Public Relations

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Luncheon OMNI Rosen Hotel, Salon 14, Floor Mezzanine American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons - RF Research Committee

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Meeting OMNI Rosen Hotel, Salon 24, Floor Mezzanine

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons - DC&R Editorial Board 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Meeting

OMNI Rosen Hotel, Salon 14, Floor Mezzanine

Evening

Society of University Urologists

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Reception OMNI Rosen Hotel, Salon 9, Floor Mezzanine



The International Relations Committee hosted a luncheon on Tuesday to honor the 1998 International Guest Scholars. From left to right (front row): Adebayo Clement Adebamowo, MB, ChB, FWACS, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria; Francisco Padilla Monroy, MD, Mexico D.F., Mexico; Rem R. Gvamichava, MD, Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia; Peter Claus Schrenk, MD, Linz, Austria; and Jerome J. DeCosse, MD, FACS, Chair of the International Relations Committee. Back row: David Charles Gotley, MD, FRACS, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia; Eduardo Henderson, MD, Montevideo, Uruguay; Orestes Noel Mederos Curbelo, MD, Havana, Cuba; and Sergio Leonel Ralon C., MD, Guatemala, Guatemala.

Don't miss your Friday CCN

Fellows who will not be in Orlando on Friday to pick up their issue of the *Clinical Congress News* may obtain a copy by contacting the *Clinical Congress News* office today (convention center, Hall A-4), or by writing to Stephen Regnier, Editor, ACS, Communications Dept., 633 N. Saint Clair St., Chicago, IL 60611-3211.

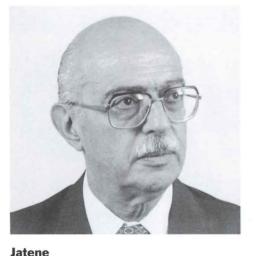
The Friday issue contains information on Convocation activities, an announcement of the College's President-Elect and other Officers-Elect, as well as information on new and re-elected Regents and Governors.

Caps and gowns

Distribution of caps and gowns starts today at 1:30 pm until the Convocation ceremony begins, in Salons E1, E2, E3, and E4 (Ballroom Level) of the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel. Caps and gowns may be turned in on Thursday at the same locations following the conclusion of Convocation.

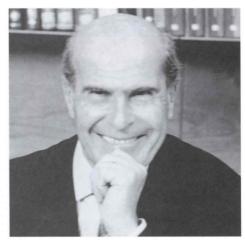


Members of the Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS) Subcommittee of the Committee on Trauma met last Saturday at the Fourth International ATLS meeting. ATLS members from six continents participated, and are shown above.









Sweetnam Veronesi

College awards four Honorary Fellowships

Honorary Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons will be awarded tonight to four prominent surgeons from Brazil, England, and Italy. The awards will be presented during the Convocation ceremonies that conclude the College's Clinical Congress. The recipients will be:

- Adib Domingos Jatene, MD. Professor Jatene is dean of the University of São Paulo School of Medicine, Brazil.
- Averil Olive Mansfield, MB, ChM, MD (Hon), FRCS (Eng, Edin, Gl), FRACS (Hon). Professor Mansfield is the director of academics, surgical unit,

division of surgery, anaesthesia, and intensive care at the Imperial College School of Medicine, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Wing, London.

- Sir Rodney Sweetnam, KCVO, CBE, MA, MB, RCS (Eng). Sir Rodney is the immediate president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- Umberto Veronesi, MD, FRCS (Hon-Edin). Professor Veronesi is scientific director of the European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy.

Presenting the Honorary Fellowships on behalf of the College will be: Benson R. Wilcox, MD, FACS, Chapel Hill, NC; Jerry Goldstone, MD, FACS, San Francisco, CA; Kirby I. Bland, MD, FACS, Providence, RI; and Ronald E. Rosenthal, MD, FACS, New Hyde Park, NY, who is a member of the College's Board of Regents.

Fellowship in the American College of Surgeons is awarded during the ceremony to surgeons whose education and training, professional qualifications, surgical and competence, and ethical conduct have passed a rigorous evaluation and have been found to be consistent with the high standards established and demanded by the College. During

the College's Convocation ceremony this year, 1,383 surgeons from around the world will be admitted into Fellowship. With a membership of more than 59,000, the College is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

Sir Rickman Godlee, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, was awarded the first Honorary Fellowship in the College during the College's first Convocation in 1913. Since then, 362 internationally prominent surgeons, including the four chosen this year, have been named Honorary Fellows of the American College of Surgeons.



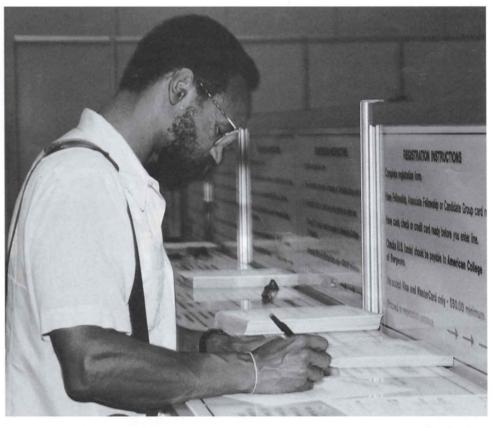
Distinguished Service Award recipients came together for a luncheon on Tuesday. From left to right (front row): S. Stuart Mally, Luis F. Sala, Edwin W. Gerrish, Vallee L. Willman, and C. Barber Mueller. Back row: Seymour I. Schwartz, Josef E. Fischer, Barry M. Manuel, C. Thomas Thompson, James C. Thompson, and Frank Padberg.



Past-Presidents of the College, who comprise the Advisory Council to the Board of Regents, gathered Tuesday for a luncheon. In attendance were (left to right, front row): James D. Hardy, Jonathan E. Rhoads, William H. Muller, Jr., W. Gerald Austen, G. Thomas Shires, and Ralph A. Straffon. Back row: M.J. Jurkiewicz, David G. Murray, LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., Lloyd D. MacLean, Henry T. Bahnson, and C. Rollins Hanlon.



The all-new 10th edition of the Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP) made its debut this week at the SESAP exhibit in the convention center. Attendees are invited to stop by the exhibit, chat with authors, and to enroll in the new program on-site.



Registration totals

As of Wednesday afternoon, total registration for the Clinical Congress was 13,593; 8,015 were physicians and the rest were exhibitors, guests, spouses, or convention personnel.